

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



PRESS RELEASE

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DC DOC First Corrections Agency in Metropolitan Region to use NexTalk Video Remote Interpreting Services

(Washington D.C.) The District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DCDOC) has deployed six NexTalk laptops to its facilities and is now the first corrections agency in the local Metropolitan region to use video remote interpreting services (VRI). The laptops provide instant access to live sign language interpreters for American, English, and Spanish sign languages and are part of an agency-wide effort to afford better access for deaf and hard-of-hearing inmates.

This March, DCDOC began conducting training for fifty (50) staff members and contractors to use the NexTalk VRI services. As of April 4, the Department has placed laptops in locations within the Central Cell Block, the Central Detention Facility, and the Correctional Treatment Facility, with four of the six available for portable use throughout the facilities. Once logged into the laptops, individuals are able to connect to a live interpreter via the web-based service, allowing for greater access to sign language interpreters for inmates.

“Although VRI technology isn't new, providing it in a correctional setting is,” said Sarah Rand, DOC Risk Manager and ADA Coordinator. “DCDOC should take great pride in that.” Director Tom Faust agrees. “We are excited to have this program available for our deaf and hard-of-hearing inmates. It further demonstrates the District’s commitment to serving the hearing impaired and DOC’s commitment to providing a safe, secure, and humane environment for those individuals in our custody.”

The Department will still have TTY services available to anyone contacting the agency in need of assistance.

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Website Address: www.doc.dc.gov

